

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 061536Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5070

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12826

DEPT PASS CAIRO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IZ XF

SUBJECT: IRAQI OPPOSITION TO ME CEASE-FIRE

REF: BAGHDAD 0592

SUMMARY: MOST OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE PICK UP HERE
RE IRAQI INVOLVEMENT IN OCTOBER FIGHTING CONFIRMS INFO
REPORTED REFTEL, ALTHOUGH CERTAIN PARTICULARS--NOTABLY
RE PERFORMANCE OF IRAQI TROOPS AND THEIR BEHAVIOR TOWARD
SARG--APPEAR CONTRADICTORY. END SUMMARY.

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS OF IRAQI AFFAIRS IN BEIRUT

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TELL US THAT IRAQI GOVT, FOLLOWING ADOPTION SC RES 338

AND EGYPTIAN ACCEPTANCE OCT 22 CEASE-FIRE, PROPOSED FULL UNION WITH SYRIA IN ORDER PREVENT SARG ACCEPTANCE OF CEASE-FIRE AND POSSIBLY GOAD EGYPTIANS INTO RENEWING HOSTILITIES WITH ISRAEL. (THEY CLAIM GOI ALSO PROPOSED

MILITARY UNION WITH JORDAN, WHICH SIMPLY IGNORED THE OFFER.) SAME SOURCES REPORT THAT WHEN SARG, FOLLOWING SOME INITIAL HESITATION, REJECTED IRAQI OFFER AND ACCEPTED SC RES 338 AND CEASE-FIRE, CERTAIN IRAQI UNITS IN SYRIA THEN JOINED WITH NUMBER OF DISGRUNTLED SYRIAN OFFICERS IN PLANNING SPIKING OPERATION DESIGNED PROVOKE RENEWED HOSTILITIES. SARG APPARENTLY GOT WIND OF THIS MOVE, WHICH PROBABLY AIMED MORE AT ASSAD THAN AT ISRAELIS, AND SCOTCHED IT.

2. ALTHOUGH GOI HAS CLAIMED THAT SUBSEQUENT RAPID WITHDRAWAL OF IRAQI FORCES FROM SYRIA AND EGYPT WAS NATURAL IN VIEW OF CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND DANGER OF "IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACIES" AT HOME (I.E., REAL OR IMAGINED KURDISH AND IRANIAN ACTIVITIES), OUR SOURCES CONFIRM THAT PRIMARY REASON WAS BAGHDAD'S PIQUE AT HAVING BEEN EXCLUDED FROM CALCULATIONS THAT LED EGYPT AND SYRIA TO ACCEPT CEASE-FIRE (AND ALSO GO TO WAR IN FIRST PLACE). THEY ALSO CONFIRM THAT GOI UNHAPPY WITH SOVS FOR KEEPING THEM UNINFORMED (1971 SOVIET-IRAQI DEFENSE TREATY CALLS FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON SUCH MATTERS) AND GOI WORRIED THAT FUTURE PROGRESS TOWARD ME PEACE SETTLEMENT WILL ADD TO ITS ISOLATION IN ME POLITICS.

3. AT PRESENT, BAGHDAD RULERS ARE DESCRIBED AS EM-BARRASSED BY ALLEGED POOR SHOWING OF IRAQI TROOPS IN SYRIA, CONCERNED OVER GROWING APATHY AND DISCONTENT ON HOME FRONT, AND FEARFUL OF LONG-TERM ISOLATION. BEING UNWILLING TAKE POLITICAL LEAP OF ACCEPTING SC RES 338, GOI HAS APPARENTLY FALLEN BACK ON ITS TRADITIONAL HARD-LINE OPPOSITION TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL. IT APPARENTLY COUNTS ON CURRENT PEACE-SEEKING EFFORTS TO FAIL--WHEREUPON IT WOULD HOPE TO PICK UP PIECES LEFT BY DISCREDITED SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN REGIMES, AND ACHIEVE GREATER INFLUENCE IN ME, ESPECIALLY WITH A MORE RADICALIZED
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BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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